

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 131324Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8690

S E C R E T BONN 16412

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF WASHDC AND CINCEUR VAIHINGEN FOR
POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, GW

SUBJECT: MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 218969 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, EMBOFFS MET WITH GERMAN MEMBERS OF AD HOC WORKING GROUP NOV. 9 AND 12 TO DISCUSS SHIPMENT ON MSC CHARTER VESSEL PUERTO RICO. MAIN GERMAN CONCERN WAS DOCUMENTATION OF TRUCKS (40, NOT 50 AS MENTIONED REFTEL) BOTH FOR MOVEMENT WITHIN FRG AND FOR ACTUAL SHIPMENT ON PUERTO RICO. THEY WERE ANXIOUS THAT THERE BE NO MENTION OF ISRAELI DESTINATION WHICH COULD LEAK TO PUBLIC OR PRESS. WE WERE ABLE TO ASSURE THEM THAT DOCUMENTATION WOULD BE SAFE (DESTINATION OF TRUCKS ON SHIP'S MANIFEST WILL BE GIVEN AS NAPLES, WHICH IS PUERTO RICO'S ACTUAL NEXT PORT OF CALL AFTER BREMERHAVEN.

2. GERMANS RAISED WITH US AP STORY OUT OF WASHINGTON ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ON HIS RETURN FROM NPG MEETING RE HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER. ACCORDING TO STORY, SCHLESINGER SAID HE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH LEBER RE FUTURE SHIPMENTS OF US MILITARY MATERIAL TO MIDDLE EAST. FONOFF HAS HAD NUMBER
SECRET

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OF INQUIRIES FROM PRESS. WE TOLD GERMANS TEXT OF EXCERPTS FROM SCHLESINGER REMARKS WE HAD (WE GAVE THEM COPY) DID NOT REFER SPECIFICALLY TO MIDDLE EAST.

3. EMBASSY CONSIDERS CONSULTATION WITH FRG RE PUERTO
RICO SHIPMENT TO HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED.
AT NO TIME DURING PROCESS DID WE SUGGEST WE WERE ASKING
FOR GERMAN APPROVAL OF SHIPMENT. WE CONVEYED INFORMA-
TION ABOUT IT AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS THE GERMANS RAISED
--AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CONCERNING DOCUMENTATION.
HILLENBRAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF, AND CINCEUR.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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